

The Advocate

AND TOPEKA TRIBUNE.

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TOPEKA, KANSAS, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1893.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE
PEOPLE'S PARTY OF KANSAS.

ANARCHY and INSURRECTION!

Conceived in the Iniquity of
Republican Rule

And Brought to Life by Cor-
poration Money,

Held High Carnival in Our
State Capital.

KANSAS TREMBLES,
LIBERTY WEEPS,

While Justice Waits on Treason
and on Murder.

Bloodshed is Only Averted by the Pa-
triotism of the Governor and
Populist Legislators.

Once more Kansas has assumed a war-like appearance and the past week has witnessed an insurrection at our capital that will mark another important epoch in the history of the state. What the outcome will be is not yet clear, but peace has been restored and every good citizen hopes it will remain. Most of the ADVOCATE readers have already a fair knowledge of these late events, and it is only necessary to recount them in detail and in a fair and impartial manner, that the public may understand the situation more fully and be able to retain the details. At this writing there are rumors of another attempt to overthrow the authority of the state, but there is nothing tangible to indicate that such a thing is intended.

TUESDAY.

On Tuesday, February 14, the republicans who had been lawlessly occupying representative hall to the annoyance of the regular house ever since the beginning of the session, became incensed at the slow progress they were making toward overcoming the representatives of the people. Apparently fearing that the senate appropriation bill which had passed the house the evening before would not, if tested in court, meet with the fate they had prayed for, they determined to do something more desperate than they had yet undertaken. At noon

they agreed on a plan they had been all morning formulating, and passed the following resolution for the arrest of Chief Clerk Rich of the Populist house:

WHEREAS, One Ben C. Rich has for a number of days last past and during the present session of this, the house of representatives, and in the presence of said house, continually interrupted the regular proceedings of the house by loud and boisterous language and unlawful and unusual noises, without legal excuse or justification, and without claim or pretense that the same was a part of or connected with the proceeding of the house of representatives, and such conduct has been and still is being indulged and persisted in by said Ben C. Rich in open, malicious and willful defiance and design of the rules and authority of the house of representatives; and

WHEREAS, Such conduct has greatly interrupted and interfered with the transaction of public business by this house, and has impeded and still impedes necessary legislation in the interest of the people of the state of Kansas, thereby bringing the authority and dignity of the house of representatives into disrespect; therefore be it

Resolved, That by the said action and conduct of the said Ben C. Rich, has been and is guilty of contempt of this house; and the speaker is hereby authorized and directed to cause, said Ben C. Rich to be forthwith arrested by the sergeant-at-arms and brought before the bar of this house to show cause if any he have, why he should not be punished for such contempt, and that said Ben C. Rich be held in custody by said sergeant-at-arms, subject to the further order of the house of representatives.

ATTEMPT TO ARREST RICH.

Their sergeant-at-arms not being present, three of his deputies, Young, Clogston and Jordan, were given the order for Rich's arrest. They went to the Dutton House, where Rich was preparing for dinner, and made known their business. Rich answered that he did not recognize them as officers of the house of representatives, as they claimed to be, and refused to go with them. He then said that his duty would require him to go to the house after dinner and if they would wait they might go along. When he was ready to go he was accompanied by his wife, and after refusing to take the carriage the alleged officers offered him, started to walk. A number of his Populist friends, among whom were John W. Breidenthal, S. M. Scott, W. H. Ryan, Sergeant-at-arms Dick, D. M. Howard, P. N. Gish, J. F. Willits, and Williams, of Ft. Scott, surrounded him and walked along toward the state house. The deputies walked as near as they could to the man they wanted to take prisoner. In the meantime the republican house had adjourned to their headquarters at the Copeland hotel, and when the Rich party arrived at the corner opposite that hostility they were met by a courier who directed that Rich should be taken there. The deputies attempted to take their man in that direction, but were met with very sturdy resistance in

which they were roughly handled. After one of them was knocked down by a gentle tap from Ryan's fist, and the others were twisted considerably out of shape, they retreated, and Rich went on to representative hall as if nothing unusual had happened. The house was called to order and proceeded with its regular order of business. Besides the passing of half a dozen bills the following resolution was introduced by Gest, of Jefferson:

WHEREAS, An attempt has been made to arrest the chief clerk of this house by an organized mob calling themselves the republican house of representatives, but which we believe to be in reality the Santa Fe railroad company; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the legally organized and constitutional house of representatives, proclaim to the state of Kansas that the mob was foiled and that our flag is still there.

Enraged over the failure of their attempt to delay the lawful proceedings of the Populist house, the republicans grew more and more excited. During the afternoon they swore in over fifty sergeants-at-arms with R. B. Welch as chief, declaring to themselves that they would yet stop the proceedings of the Dunsmore house.

The regular house met this menacing movement with a resolution to exclude from the hall all but members of the house. The attempt to arrest their chief clerk was considered sufficient grounds to justify the Populists in preparing for further outrages, and the sergeant-at-arms was instructed to keep out the deputies and other so-called officers of the republican house.

Several constables came to the house with justice warrants for Ryan, Breidenthal, Scott and Willits, who were charged with breaking the peace (defending Rich). These warrants were served between them and Wednesday night each of the defendants was released on bond.

THE SHERIFF CALLED FOR.

Tuesday afternoon the sheriff of Shawnee county received the following from the governor:

TOPEKA, Kas., February 14, 1893.

DEAR SIR:—Whereas, a body of armed and lawless men have this day attempted to arrest the chief clerk of the house of representatives, the Hon. Ben C. Rich; and whereas, there are rumors which seem to be well-founded that such lawless body of men now contemplate a second attempt to arrest said Rich and otherwise to become a menace to the peace and order of the state; now, therefore, I hereby demand of you that you proceed at once to provide such peace officers as may be necessary for the preservation of the peace and safety of the state, and that such officers be at once stationed upon the capitol grounds and in the corridors of the capitol building, as may be necessary to prevent the entering of armed or disorderly men, and that you use every lawful means in your power to preserve the peace, prevent riot and all disorderly conduct, to the end

that the house of representatives may proceed undisturbed in the legitimate performance of its duty.

Please advise me at once if these demands will be complied with.

L. D. LEWELLING,
Governor of Kansas.

The sheriff also received the following from Speaker Dunsmore:

TOPEKA, Kas., February 14, 1893.

J. M. Witherson, Sheriff of Shawnee County:

DEAR SIR:—I hereby call on you as sheriff of Shawnee county for sufficient force to preserve the peace and authority of the house of representatives. I am very truly yours, J. M. DUNSMORE,
Speaker of the house of representatives.

The sheriff refused to comply with the demand of the governor and Populist speaker, and so notified them.

ALARMED ABOUT THE TREASURY.

In view of the fact that the senate had concurred in the amendments to the appropriation bill passed by the house, to pay all members and employees of the Populist house their salaries, the Douglass house passed the following:

Resolved, By the house of representatives of the state of Kansas that the treasurer of the state be and is hereby admonished not to pay any public moneys under any pretended act of the legislature of this state passed by the body presided over by J. M. Dunsmore, and now pretending to be a house of representatives; and be it further

Resolved, That said state treasurer and his bondsmen will be held strictly responsible for any moneys so paid out of the public treasury, and under no circumstances or conditions whatever will this house ever ratify, confirm or otherwise make good to said treasurer any such money so paid under said pretended authority.

WEDNESDAY.

The trouble was still growing. Wednesday morning there was a general apprehension on all sides. It was in the air that something was going to happen. Numerous conferences had been held during the night in the state offices, most of the interest centering between the executive and the adjutant general's office. The Populist members had held forth during the night in representative hall and had taken a recess for breakfast. Speaker Dunsmore and the sergeant-at-arms had given due notice that aside from members and reporters none but the officers and employees of the Dunsmore house should be admitted. A guard of half a dozen men were stationed at the stairway leading to the front entrance of the hall, with instructions to direct the members to the rear entrance. The front doors were not locked. A few house employees were inside.

THE ASSAULT.

About 8 o'clock a crowd of about 100 men and boys started from the Copeland hotel, and as they marched toward the state house their numbers increased. It was a vicious, determined

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